

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for matching character sets, comprising:
 - 2 storing one or more data set files;
 - 3 creating one or more character set files, wherein each character set file is
 - 4 associated with a character set and includes indexes associated with the one or more data
 - 5 set files;
 - 6 receiving a request specifying one or more character sets; and
 - 7 identifying one or more of the data set files that contain one or more of the
 - 8 requested character sets using the indexes in the character set files.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - 2 creating an array of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array
 - 3 corresponds to a character set file and stores an index stored in the corresponding
 - 4 character set file; and
 - 5 comparing a current index entry to a compared index entry.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - 2 if the current index entry is less than the compared index entry, selecting another
 - 3 index entry for comparison.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - 2 if the current index entry is greater than the compared index entry,
 - 3 replacing the current index entry with the compared index entry; and
 - 4 resetting zero or more update indicators.

1 5. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 if the current index entry is equal to the compared index entry,
3 incrementing a matching counter; and
4 setting an update indicator for the compared index entry.

1 6. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 if all of the index entries in the array have been selected for comparison,
3 incrementing a matching counter; and
4 storing the index in the current index entry in an output file associated
5 with a value of a matching counter associated with the index.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 if all of the indexes in the character set files have not been selected for
3 comparison,
4 updating the current index entry; and
5 updating any index entry whose update indicator is set.

1 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
2 if all of the indexes in the character set files have been selected, outputting a
3 number of output files that is equivalent to the number of character set files, wherein each
4 output file stores zero or more indexes.

1 9. An article of manufacture for matching character sets, wherein the article
2 of manufacture is capable of causing operations, the operations comprising:
3 storing one or more data set files;
4 creating one or more character set files, wherein each character set file is
5 associated with a character set and includes indexes associated with the one or more data
6 set files;

1 receiving a request specifying one or more character sets; and
2 identifying one or more of the data set files that contain one or more of the
3 requested character sets using the indexes in the character set files.

1 10. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the operations further
2 comprise:

3 creating an array of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array
4 corresponds to a character set file and stores an index stored in the corresponding
5 character set file; and

6 comparing a current index entry to a compared index entry.

1 11. The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further
2 comprise:

3 if the current index entry is less than the compared index entry, selecting another
4 index entry for comparison.

1 12. The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further
2 comprise:

3 if the current index entry is greater than the compared index entry,
4 replacing the current index entry with the compared index entry; and
resetting zero or more update indicators.

1 13. The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further
2 comprise:

3 if the current index entry is equal to the compared index entry,
4 incrementing a matching counter; and
5 setting an update indicator for the compared index entry.

1 14. The article of manufacture of claim 10, wherein the operations further
2 comprise:

3 if all of the index entries in the array have been selected for comparison,
4 incrementing a matching counter; and
5 storing the index in the current index entry in an output file associated
6 with a value of a matching counter associated with the index.

1 15. The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein the operations further
2 comprise:

3 if all of the indexes in the character set files have not been selected for
4 comparison,
5 updating the current index entry; and
6 updating any index entry whose update indicator is set.

1 16. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the operations further
2 comprise:

3 if all of the indexes in the character set files have been selected, outputting a
4 number of output files that is equivalent to the number of character set files, wherein each
output file stores zero or more indexes.

1 17. A system for matching character sets, comprising:
2 means for storing one or more data set files;
3 means for creating one or more character set files, wherein each character set file
4 is associated with a character set and includes indexes associated with the one or more
5 data set files;
6 means for receiving a request specifying one or more character sets; and
7 means for identifying one or more of the data set files that contain one or more of
8 the requested character sets using the indexes in the character set files.

- 1 18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:
 - 2 means for creating an array of index entries, wherein each index entry in the array
 - 3 corresponds to a character set file and stores an index stored in the corresponding
 - 4 character set file; and
 - 5 means for comparing a current index entry to a compared index entry.
- 1 19. The system of claim 18, further comprising:
 - 2 means for, if the current index entry is less than the compared index entry,
 - 3 selecting another index entry for comparison.
- 1 20. The system of claim 18, further comprising:
 - 2 means for, if the current index entry is greater than the compared index entry,
 - 3 (i) replacing the current index entry with the compared index entry; and
 - 4 (ii) resetting zero or more update indicators.
- 1 21. The system of claim 18, further comprising:
 - 2 means for, if the current index entry is equal to the compared index entry,
 - 3 (i) incrementing a matching counter; and
 - 4 (ii) setting an update indicator for the compared index entry.
- 1 22. The system of claim 18, further comprising:
 - 2 means for, if all of the index entries in the array have been selected for
 - 3 comparison,
 - 4 (i) incrementing a matching counter; and
 - 5 (ii) storing the index in the current index entry in an output file associated
 - 6 with a value of a matching counter associated with the index.

1 23. The system of claim 22, further comprising:
2 means for, if all of the indexes in the character set files have not been selected for
3 comparison,
4 (i) updating the current index entry; and
5 (ii) updating any index entry whose update indicator is set.

1 24. The system of claim 23, further comprising:
2 means for, if all of the indexes in the character set files have been selected,
3 outputting a number of output files that is equivalent to the number of character set files,
4 wherein each output file stores zero or more indexes.